

March 6, 2023

Dear Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

In January 27, 2023 press conference, Lieutenant Governor Susan told the people of Connecticut "We're not worried about the guns that are stored in people's homes under lock and key. But we do want to stop the continued proliferation of weapons in our state." While this may have sounded like a reassurance to some, the reality is that HB6667 has far reaching implications to gun owners. You will hear many examples of this from your constituents today.

HB6667, An Act Addressing Gun Violence, is an absolute misnomer. The very harsh reality is that this bill is NOT addressing the actual causes of true violence in our state. Violence here is real and needs to be corrected but the contents of this bill is wholly misguided in addressing the problems Connecticut residents are actually facing. Violence in our state is overwhelmingly committed by individuals prohibited from owning a firearm and engaging in activities that are already illegal. However, this bill has detrimental repercussions in the everyday lives of Connecticut residents who have been background checked, fingerprinted and qualified by the state to own and carry. I ask that today you consider the many voices of responsible gun owners and oppose HB6667.

I am also here today in opposition of HB6816. Very simply, microstamping technology is not feasible or reliable. The ability to swap or modify a firing pin to evade the stamping is incredibly easy and will lead to just another example of criminals skirting the law while law-abiding gun owners are impeded. However, I want to speak to the proposed ban on body armor. I cannot comprehend why we would want to prevent ALL individuals from protecting themselves. My daughter is in fourth grade. She has panels in her backpack that may save her life or the life of one of her peers in the event of a shooting. Many women like me carry purses with ballistic panels in them which may shield us or our children if ever needed. While perhaps panels like these aren't intended to be affected, manufacturers afraid of being sued will simply make all of their products unavailable to residents of our state. Again, perhaps well-meaning legislation fails to account for real world implications in the lives of those own and use these items every day.

I encourage you to support HB6817.

Sincerely,

Holly Sullivan

President

Connecticut Citizens Defense League